bourne, stating that two observers, whom Dr. M. believed perfectly credible, had, independently of each other, witnessed similar protection in that country.

Dr. Kenderdine said he had personally seen a case where a garter snake so protected its young.

Mode of Depositing Ant-eggs.—Mr. McCook stated that a queen of the black carpenter ant, *Camponotus Pennsylvanicus*, which had long been kept in an artificial nest, had once been seen in the act of depositing an egg. The queen was at the time clinging to the side of a hollow in the surface of the earth, almost in a vertical position. The usual body-guard of workers quite surrounded her, continually touching her with their antennæ. The egg was a white cylindrical object, about one-eighth of an inch in length. It was about two minutes in escaping from the body, and as soon as dropped was carried below within the galleries by a worker. The queen was never left by her body-guard, who sought to control her movements by pressing around her, blocking up the path which she wished to take. Frequently more vigorous persuasions were used, an antenna or leg being grasped by a worker, and the queen thus pulled backward. She made no attacks upon her guard, but often stubbornly held her own way; though commonly yielding more or less graciously to her attendants. This colony had been received from the Allegheny Mountains in December, within their formicary in an oak bough, in which they were hibernating, being quite stiff with cold. They immediately revived in the warmth, and were healthy and active during the following spring. The queen survived until September following, and would doubtless have lived longer had she not been neglected during a prolonged absence in summer. She outlived all her subjects, and was certainly more than a year old.

April 29.

The President, Dr. Ruschenberger, in the chair.

Thirty-eight persons present.

Note on the Marriage-flights of Lasius flavus and Myrmica lobricornis.—Rev. H. C. McCook remarked that the first named ant is one of the most familiar objects in nature. Its small dusky-yellow workers may be seen in every American lawn, walk, field, and yard, throwing up its fragile moundlets of sand-pellets, and swarming upon particles of fruit, crumbs, bones, dead insects, and all manner of sweets. It is quite cosmopolitan in its distribution, and is well known in Europe. The following observation of the annual marriage-flight of the sexes was made September 5, 1878, in the vicinity of Philadelphia. The nests observed were

The fact is interesting as indicating the origin of formicaries from single queens, as myrmecologists have supposed to be frequently if not commonly the case. Further, as showing the ability of a large number of ants (this nest was reported to consist of vast numbers) to maintain active life under quite circumscribed environment. The insects sheltered in such numbers by old trees may have furnished a large portion of the food supply. The specimens brought by Mr. Wilcox were taken from a colony on the land, which he supposed to be identical with the swamp-tree nest, and were examples of *Camponotus esuriens*, Smith.

Henry W. Stelwagon, M.D., Henry T. Coates, Wm. S. Magee, James F. Magee, J. J. Kirkbride, M.D., and Robert Meade Smith, M.D, were elected members.

The following were ordered to be printed:—